

Attorney's Docket No. NZ010
Amendment

Serial No. 10/614,527
May 23, 2006

REMARKS

This is a response to the USPTO communication issued on 24 February 2006 to the above application. Claims 1-55 are pending in the instant application. Claims 2-23, 25-45, and 47-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-23 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 7-17, 19-20, 22-24, 26-39, 41-42, 44-46, 48-51, and 52-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carpentier (US 6,807,632). Claims 18, 21, 40, and 43 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Carpentier as applied above, and in further view of Hart, et al. (US 6,957,221). Claims have been amended and allowance of all pending claims is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

On pages 2-3 of the February 24, 2006 office action, the examiner asserts that claims 2-23, 25-45, and 47-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In relation to claim rejections under 35 USC 112:

Claims 2 to 23 have been amended to replace "A method" with "The method".

Claims 25 to 45 have been amended to replace "A system" with "The system".

Claims 47 to 52 have been amended to replace "A system" with "The system".

Claims 23 and 45 have been amended to replace "JDBC" with "Java Database".

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 101

On pages 3-4 of the February 24, 2006 office action, the examiner asserts that claims 1-23 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. The Examiner rejected the above claims asserting that the preamble of these computer data project claims do not properly recite a statutory invention under 35 U.S.C. 101. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Claim 1 is "non-statutory because the claim as written is directed to a computer program/software per se and is thus nonfunctional descriptive material." The preamble of claim 1 has been re-written to clarify that the claim is directed towards a process which is patentable subject matter under 35 USC 101.

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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 4- 6, 7-17, 19-20, 22-24, 26-39, 41-42, 44-46, 48-51, and 52-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carpentier (US 6,807,632). Carpentier is directed towards solving the problem of verifying digital information to ascertain whether the contents of the digital information have changed (column 1, 28-31).

The present invention is directed towards verifying databases, or applications that use databases, by detecting changes to the structure of the database. The structure of the database is represented by schema metadata. Schema metadata includes tables, columns in tables, data types of columns, lengths of columns, custom database data types, foreign keys, constraints, stored procedures, views, triggers, indices, and scheduled jobs. As the present invention extracts schema metadata, creates reduced representations of schema metadata, and compares the reduced representations of schema metadata it is unaffected by changes to the data stored within the database.

One advantage of the present invention is that an application that is constructed to use a database, or interact with another application containing a database, can verify the structure of the database before use to avoid errors occurring when accessing the database such as query failure.

Carpentier does not teach how only portions of a data asset relating to structure rather than contents can be used to compare data assets. In fact, Carpentier teaches away from using only meta data at column 13, lines 44- 51 by stating that their invention is content addressable and that identifiers that are not content addressable may be readily spoofed.

The examiner notes that at column 1, lines 54-59, Carpentier states that “[d]ata on computer systems can generally only be accessed through identifiers or location mechanisms which to a greater or lesser extent include information about the location of the file in the storage of the computer”. This statement does not disclose “applying a process to obtain schema metadata from the secondary application”. Schema metadata is structural data about the database and not location data about the database.

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The examiner notes that at column 5, lines 58-60, Carpentier states that "[t]here is no restriction on the data, meta data or file system structure that can be stored and reference by an e-CLIP". An e-CLIP is a hash sequence of a descriptor file. A descriptor file contains one or more hash sequences of the contents of one or more data assets and may also contain other data, meta data or file system structure data relating to the data assets. However, as the e-CLIP contains a "unique fingerprint" of the digital asset the e-CLIP cannot be used to compare structurally identical databases containing different data.

The examiner notes that at column 3, lines 35-37, Carpentier states that "[t]he differences between Should Have lists and Already Have lists for individual computer are used to determine which items must be compared to update the individual desktops". As previously stated, the system disclosed in Carpentier can only be used to compare identical data assets. The advantage of the present invention creating reduced representations from the schema metadata is that structurally similar databases that differ in content can be compared and verified for use by an application.

It will be appreciated that some applications only required some of the structure of a database to be verified. In such a case the present invention extracts no more than the necessary schema metadata in order to verify the database. For at least all of the reasoning set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that Carpentier does not disclose the present invention as claimed in any one of claims 1-2, 4- 6, 7-17, 19-20, 22-24, 26-39, 41-42, 44-46, 48-51, and 52-55.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 18, 21, 40, and 43 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Carpentier as applied above, and in further view of Hart, et al. (US 6,957,221). Each of these claims depend from parent claims that are patentable for the reasons stated above and recite limitations that further distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art of record. Accordingly, the rejections raised under 35 USC 103 are not relevant as Carpentier does not teach the invention recited within the parent claims of claims 18, 21, 40 or 43 and Hart et al. fails to address any of the above asserted deficiencies of Carpentier.

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CONCLUSION

Based on all these considerations and amendment, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims. If any issues remain that preclude issuance of this application, the Examiner is again urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,

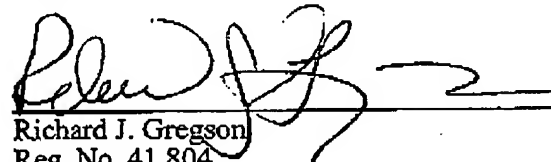
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